

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-19, 22-24, 26-29, 32-38, 40, 41, 43, 47 and 49-54 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 12 and 26 are amended and claims 44-46 and 48 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. More specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 44, 45, 46 and 48 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, subject matter of claims 44, 45, 46 and 48 are incorporated into independent claims 1, 2, 12 and 26, respectively. Thus, each of independent claims 1, 2, 12 and 26 define patentable subject matter. Claims 22-24, 29, 49, 53 and 54 depend from claim 1, claims 32 and 50 depend from claim 2, claims 13, 40, 46 and 51 depend from claim 12 and claims 43 and 52 depend from claim 26 and therefore define patentable subject matter at least for this reason. Entry is therefore proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Office Action also indicates that claims 4-5, 8-11, 14-19, 27, 28, 33-38, 41 and 44-48 are allowed.

For at least the reasons set forth above, all the claims are allowable. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 5,

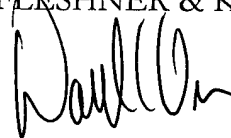
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Response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004

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8-19, 22-24, 26-29, 32-38, 40, 41, 43, 46, 47 and 49-54 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David C. Oren**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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